

Sherrod Brown, United States Senator *for* Ohio

# APPALACHIAN OHIO QUARTERLY

REGIONAL NEWSLETTER



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*Jobseekers talk to employers at the Southeast Ohio Regional Jobs Fair in Cambridge, co-hosted by Sen. Brown's office, local chambers, and One-Stop employment centers.*

## Hosting a Fair for Job Seekers in Cambridge

Nearly 500 job seekers attended a career fair hosted by Sen. Brown's office at the end of March in Cambridge. His office teamed up with local chambers of commerce—including Cambridge, Carroll, Noble, Tuscarawas, Monroe, Jefferson, Marietta, Coshocton, Harrison, St. Clairsville, and Zanesville-

Muskingum chambers—and County One-Stop Employment Centers to help qualified workers in Ohio find available employment opportunities. The event featured a diversity of employers, including those in the health care, tourism, construction, transpor-

tation, manufacturing, and oil and gas industries. All of the employers in attendance committed to hiring this year. Colleges and career centers were also on hand to provide jobseekers with information and advice on available training programs.

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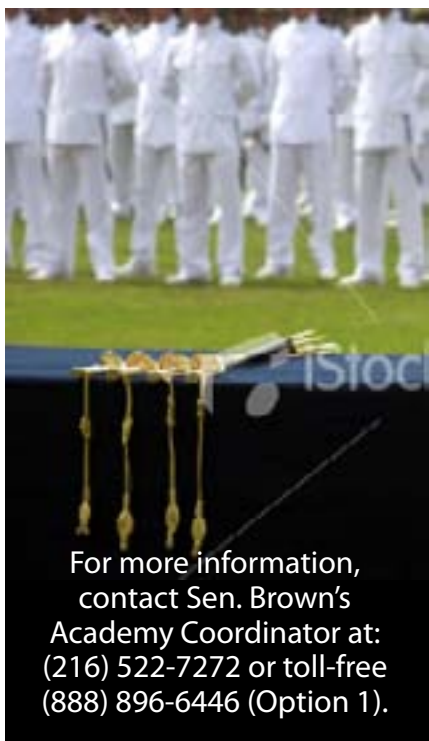
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## Helping Ohio Students Attend Service Academies

Ohio's schools are educating the young people who will become our next generation of military leaders. Each year, Sen. Brown is honored to nominate outstanding students to attend our nation's service academies, including the Air Force Academy, the Naval Academy, the Military Academy at West Point, and the Merchant Marine Academy.

Students interested in attending a service academy can apply through Sen. Brown's office during the spring of their junior year of high school. Applications for the class entering in Summer 2014 are available on Sen. Brown's website: <http://www.brown.senate.gov>.

Academy High School graduate Ethan Moore. Sen. Brown nominated all three individuals for these academies. A nomination does not guarantee acceptance into a service academy, but a congressional recommendation is required. The Academy's Admissions Board ultimately decides who receives an appointment.



## Advocating for Economic Development Initiatives in Appalachia

Strong rural communities demand economic investment and development. That's why local development districts throughout Appalachian Ohio are so important. In March, Sen. Brown was recognized for his advocacy on behalf of economic development initiatives in Appalachia, receiving the 2013 Congressional Award from the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) during a ceremony in Washington.

The Congressional Award is given annually to one or two members of Congress who have been identified as strong advocates and supporters of regional economic development in general and the work of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and its mission to improve the quality of life for residents of Appalachia.

"Local development districts throughout Appalachian Ohio make a huge difference in the communities they serve," Sen. Brown said. "I am honored to receive the 2013 Congressional Award from the Development District Association of Appalachia."

## Bolstering Firefighter Safety

Ohio's first responders put their lives on the line every day. Federal resources ensure that firefighters across Appalachian Ohio have the resources they need to perform their jobs safely. In the first quarter of 2013, Sen. Brown announced that more than \$1 million was awarded to fire departments in Harrison, Jefferson, Tuscarawas, Vinton, Belmont, and Holmes Counties for operations and safety by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). DHS's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided the resources through its Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program, which helps firefighters and other first responders purchase protective equipment, vehicles, and gear.

## Preserving Benefits for Hundreds of Retired Coal Miners

Ohio's coal miners work hard every day and deserve the pensions and health care benefits they were promised. In March, Sen. Brown introduced the Coalfield Accountability and Retired Employee Act to protect the promised lifetime pension and health care benefits of hundreds of retired Ohio coal miners whose livelihoods and those of their families are in jeopardy.

Some retirees are facing uncertainty because the United Mine Workers of America's (UMWA) 1974 pension

"This bill would ensure that the benefits earned by miners and their families are protected and that employers are held accountable for the promises made to its employees," said Sen. Brown.

plan is severely underfunded and on the road to insolvency due to the 2008 financial crisis. The 1974 plan covers more than 100,000 mineworkers, in-

cluding hundreds of Ohioans. If the plan becomes insolvent, retirees could see reductions in their monthly pension checks. Sen. Brown's bill seeks to provide certainty and peace of mind to retirees and their families while holding employers accountable for the commitments they make to their workers. Sen. Brown is one of four co-sponsors of the bill along with Sens. Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), Joe Manchin (D-WV), and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA).

## Calling for the Creation of a National Network for Manufacturing Innovation

American workers have the drive, the creative thinking, and the determination to out-innovate the rest of the world. Sen. Brown is working to ensure that they have the opportunity to do so.

Sen. Brown is drafting legislation to create a National Network of Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI), which would establish 15 hubs of manufacturing innovation so that the United States can out-innovate the rest of the world while creating thousands of high-paying, high-tech manufacturing jobs.

The proposal is designed to bring together industry, universities and community colleges, federal agencies and all levels of government to accelerate manufacturing innovation. It would establish public-private institutes to leverage investments in industrially-relevant manufacturing technologies. The institutes would

focus on investments with broad applications to bridge the gap between basic research and product development, provide shared assets to help companies – particularly small and medium-size manufacturing enterprises – access cutting-edge capabilities and equipment, and create an unparalleled environment to educate and train students and workers in advanced manufacturing skills.

The NNMI is modeled on the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute (NAMII) in Youngstown. Sen. Brown led the charge for this first advanced manufacturing hub to be located in Ohio. His efforts helped procure \$30 million in federal funding for the new hub in Youngstown, which will be matched by \$40 million in private funds.

In March, Sen. Brown toured NAMII and called for the creation of a National Network of Manufacturing

Innovation. Later in the month, Sens. Brown and Blunt successfully included an amendment to support the creation of a National Network of Manufacturing Innovation in the Senate-passed budget resolution.

Sen. Brown will continue to work to establish the infrastructure necessary to attract new investment in high-tech manufacturing and create thousands of high-paying jobs.

*Sen. Brown visits the nation's first advanced manufacturing hub located in Youngstown, calls for the creation of a proposed National Network of Manufacturing Innovation.*







*Sen. Brown listens to an Ohio veteran*

## Sen. Brown's Office is Here to Serve You

Sen. Brown is committed to assisting Ohioans who have encountered difficulties with federal matters. Ohioans can call Sen. Brown's state offices and work directly with a constituent services representative to obtain information or resolve an issue they are having with a federal agency. Common areas of inquiry include: Social Security and Medicare benefits, veterans' benefits, military service issues, passport or visa problems, housing matters, IRS issues, and more.

For example, an Appalachian Ohio constituent wrote to Sen. Brown's office after his 2011 tax refund was turned over to the U.S. Department of Education. Even though he had completed the default recovery and reha-

bilitation on his student loan account, the constituent was still waiting for his refund. Sen. Brown's office contacted the Department of Education and confirmed that his refund was approved. The constituent received the refund within 10 days.

Another constituent, the daughter of a 92-year-old female veteran from Jefferson County, contacted Sen. Brown's office for assistance with her mother's VA pension claim. Sen. Brown's office helped the mother reschedule an exam to a nearby VA hospital and monitored the claim as it was processed. The veteran was advised a short time later that she was granted a pension.

### OFFICE LOCATIONS:

#### **CINCINNATI**

425 Walnut Street,  
Suite 2310  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

p (513) 684-1021  
f (513) 684-1029

#### **CLEVELAND**

1301 East 9th Street,  
Suite 1710  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

p (216) 522-7272  
f (216) 522-2239

#### **COLUMBUS**

200 N. High Street,  
Room 614  
Columbus, OH 43215

p (614) 469-2083  
f (614) 469-2171

#### **LORAIN**

205 West 20th Street,  
Suite M280  
Lorain, OH 44052

p (440) 242-4100  
f (440) 242-4108

#### **WASHINGTON, D.C.**

713 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

p (202) 224-2315  
f (202) 228-6321

#### **TOLL FREE NUMBER:**

1-888-896-OHIO (6446)

[www.brown.senate.gov](http://www.brown.senate.gov)  
twitter: @Sensherrodbrown